

Dillon Herald editorial, March 4, 2008

SAVE THE MEALS

Sixty Dillon County senior citizens need the five weekly blast frozen meals that were being provided to them by the Dillon County Council For The Aging. Sixty Dillon County senior citizens are no longer receiving these meals because funding for them ended on February 19th.

Sixty Dillon County senior citizens and probably many others need these meals. The number of citizens being served may seem small, but if you were one of the seniors depending on these meals, it would seem like a much larger problem.

The issue is simple: The \$2.9 million used to fund this program statewide (State Supplemental Funds for the expansion of Home and Community Based services) need to be a permanent part of the state budget. The Governor has not supported this. The House tentatively has it in their version of the budget. The Senate needs it in their version. Approximately 5,500 South Carolinians could lose their meals otherwise.

What do we need to do? We need to call or write the Governor and our legislators and let them know that this funding needs to be permanent and that anything less is unacceptable.

Our senior citizens in our county and our state need our support. We need to make sure they have what they need to lead comfortable and independent lives for as long as possible. Let's start by saving the meals.